

## CLAIMS

### What is Claimed:

- Sub A1*
1. A computer method comprising the steps of:
    - i) providing a department store space-requirements database comprising a compendium of individual department store space-requirements history;
    - ii) providing a department store space-availability database comprising a compendium of at least one of department store space management solutions, department store space information, and department store space diagnostics;
    - and
    - iii) employing a data mining technique for interrogating said department store space-requirements and department store space-availability databases for generating an output data stream, said output data stream correlating department store space-requirements problem with department store space-availability solution.
  2. A method according to claim 1, comprising a step of updating the department store space-requirements database.

3. A method according to claim 2, comprising a step of updating the department store space-requirements database so that it includes the results of employing a data mining technique.
4. A method according to claim 1, comprising a step of updating the department store space-availability database.
5. A method according to claim 4, comprising a step of updating the department store space-availability database so that it includes the effects of employing a data mining technique on the department store space-requirements database.
- 10 6. A method according to claim 2, comprising a step of refining a employed data mining technique in cognizance of pattern changes embedded in each database as a consequence of updating the department store space-requirements database.
7. A method according to claim 4, comprising a step of refining a employed data mining technique in cognizance of pattern changes embedded in each database as a consequence of updating the department store space-availability database.
- 15 8. A method according to claim 1, comprising a step of employing neural networks as the data mining technique.
9. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps

for providing an interactive department store space management database.

the method comprising the steps of:

- i) providing a department store space-requirements database comprising a compendium of individual department store space-requirements history;
  - ii) providing a department store space-availability database comprising a compendium of at least one of department store space management solutions, department store space information, and department store space diagnostics;

and

- iii) employing a data mining technique for interrogating said department store space-requirements and department store space-availability databases for generating an output data stream, said output data stream correlating department store space-requirements problem with department store space-availability solution.

**10. A computer comprising:**

- i) means for inputting a department store space-requirements database comprising a compendium of individual department store space-requirements history;
  - ii) means for inputting a department store space-availability database comprising a compendium of at least one of department store space

management solutions, department store space information, and  
department store space diagnostics;

iii) means for employing a data mining technique for interrogating said  
department store space-requirements and department store  
space-availability databases;

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and

iv) means for generating an output data stream, said output data stream  
correlating department store space-requirements problem with  
department store space-availability solution.

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